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LOOKING BACK

Lakeland MP Shannon Stubbs reflects on an eventful year on Parliament Hill
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SPORTS

Midget Avalanche tames the Vermilion Tigers in their own cage to start off the New Year.....Page 6



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Vol. 37 No. 2

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

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COMPLETED PROJECT - The completed Elk Point Walking Trail, which now includes benches, shade trees and sidewalks for the enjoyment of the community's large contingent of walkers of all ages, will be further enhanced by the addition of the final shipment of banners in the coming weeks.

Completed trail tops the mayor's list

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

It's been a busy and progressive year for the Town of Elk Point, and Mayor Lorne Young, who moved into the leadership role from Deputy Mayor after the October election, put the completion of the walking trail at the top of a long list of accomplishments.

"We were finally able to finish all the details, from the sidewalks and guard rail along Railway Avenue to the benches, banners and trees," he said, noting that unlike most grant-funded projects that are celebrated with ribbon cuttings by government officials, this one was marked only by the installation of a sign, when the officials were unable to attend a ceremony. "We'll be putting up more banners early in the new year as well."

Along with completion of that lengthy project, Young said, "we got tons of things started," including the next big project, the bulk water station that will be located near the entrance to the C. G. Baker Arena. "The land has been purchased, the ground has been tested and now it's in the hands of the engineers."

Another major project that got its start this year is water main replacement, which council agreed was essential after a never-ending procession of "multiple breaks every year. We started where it was worst, on Circle Drive, with Ravine Drive to be done next." The multi-year project was made feasible by Nikiforuk Construction Ltd., with the company allowing the town to pay in instalments rather than going into debt. An offshoot of the project was the opportunity Nikiforuk offered, to install a loop line between Circle and Ravine Drives that the mayor says will "provide better service" to both areas.

(Continued on Page 2)

STEP renewal good news for municipalities, organizations

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The provincial Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) is being renewed for another year, which is good news for local municipalities who access the funding.

According to the province, STEP gives students the opportunity to develop important skills while helping employers hire the staff they need. Eligible employers get a \$7-per-hour wage subsidy when they take part in the program.

Applications are now being accepted for STEP from employers who want to

hire students for summer work between May and August.

County of St. Paul CAO Sheila Kitz confirmed that the municipality accesses funding from STEP.

"We are allowed to hire five positions under the STEP program each year," said Kitz. "Last year, we utilized the program for summer staff in administration and FCSS."

In a press release from the provincial government, Christina Gray, Minister of Labour, said "STEP has been a valuable program for students interested in gaining unique, first-hand work experience, and it helps employers hire know-

ledgeable, enthusiastic summer staff. . . I encourage employers to apply and support our future generation of bright Albertans."

Last summer, STEP helped about 3,000 students connect to work experience, with almost 1,400 employers across the province taking part in the program. Students worked in a wide range of fields such as tourism, research, information technology, marketing and customer service.

More than 5,700 students have gained jobs through STEP since the program was restored in 2015. The program had previously been cut in 2013.

STEP is available to small businesses, non-profit organizations, public libraries, school boards, publicly funded post-secondary institutions, municipalities, First Nations and Métis settlements, reads the media release.

STEP 2018 has a budget of \$10 million. Employers interested in hiring a student for 2018 are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Albertans can learn more about the program and the application process at online at AlbertaCanada.com/STEP.

Application forms are available online and must be submitted before the Feb. 9, 2018 deadline.

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Shootout loss, runaway win as Elks start out 2018

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Elks started off 2018 with a shootout loss and a win in this weekend's pair of road games.

Dewberry Mustangs were off to a good start in Friday's game with the only first period goal, by Chance Bensmiller off Trevor Bombay and Bryce Goldsmith, but Ryley Wozniak tied the score in the first minute of the second frame, assisted by Jordyn Wozniak and Mark Brodbin. Myles Whitford added a pair of goals later in the period, assisted by Brodbin and Kam Ballas in the first and Henry Cardinal and Jordyn Wozniak in the second, to take a 3-1 lead.

Dewberry got back on track in the third period, scoring three of their own, Chance Bensmiller from Kendal Albert, Blair Sinclair from Ty McNabb and Mitch Walker and Goldsmith from Kurt Bensmiller and Josh Hrynyk, the last two a

mere 22 seconds apart, to reclaim the lead. Then Kam Ballas, assisted by Scott Ward, scored for the Elks, sending the game into a scoreless overtime and eventually to a shootout, where Mustang Drake Centazzo broke the tie for a Dewberry win.

Elks 8 - Monarchs 3

Saturday's game in Kitscoty was a runaway from the start, with the Elks scoring three goals in the first six minutes, Henry Cardinal assisted by Myles Whitford and Ryley Wozniak, Nicolas Trufal assisted by Mark Brodbin and Jason Kalynchuk, and Brodbin assisted by Brent Bacque.

The Elks started off the second period with Cardinal's second goal, assisted by Ryley Wozniak and Kam Ballas, just 1:19 after the faceoff, before the home team made a valiant effort, scoring two quick goals before Brodbin added another Elks marker, assisted by Bacque and Trufal. Kitscoty added

their final goal of the evening late in the period to go to the intermission with a 5-3 lead for the Elks.

Kitscoty's goalie kept the Elks at bay for over half of the final period, before Nathan Pundick, assisted by Trufal and Kalynchuk, Scott Ward, assisted by Cardinal and Ryley Wozniak and Whitford, assisted by Ryley Wozniak, piled on three more goals for an 8-3 Elks victory.

This week, the Elks host St. Walburg Eagles on Friday night at 8:30 p.m., while on Saturday, Jan. 20, they wind up the league schedule by hosting Vermilion Rock in another 8:30 p.m. game.

The Elks are currently in a three-way tie with Dewberry Mustangs and Two Hills Eagles for third place in the SaskAlta standings, the three teams with 18 points apiece, six points behind the Hillmond Hitmen and four points behind Wainwright Rustlers, both of those teams with only one loss this season.

Chamber's first 2018 meeting rescheduled

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The sudden passing on New Year's day of past president Geoff Hyslop, who resigned that position in September, prompted the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce to reschedule their first meeting of 2018 to Wednesday, Jan. 17, in respect for their former leader.

The Jan. 17 meeting will include plans for the coming year and for the Feb. 7 Annual General Meeting, at which a new executive will be elected.

Among the major challenges facing that new executive will be decisions on the future of the EcoCentre, and finding ways to pay down the \$135,000 loan that still remains from when the structure was built. Early efforts have reduced the loan's total by more than \$50,000, but no payments have been made on the principal amount in more than a year.

Membership renewal forms will be going out in the next week, and the chamber is also hoping to expand the membership by spreading the word of the advantages that are available through membership in the local chamber, which also includes membership in the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and the ability to access the Chambers Group Insurance Plan.

Mayor's list

(Continued from Front Page)

The town is going into the new year in better shape financially than a year ago, after restructuring long term debt, which Young says "has allowed us to continue development while we work toward paying it off." Council also has a clear picture of the town's financial future, with not only the interim 2018 operating and capital budgets in place, but also with approval given to the operating budgets for 2019 and 2020, the five-year capital plan and the 20-year equipment replacement plans for both public works and the fire department. The long-term financial planning is one of the many requirements under the new Municipal Government Act (MGA), he noted.

A start has also been made on another project that is vital to the town's operation.

"There was not a lot of policy in place," Mayor Young said. "Now we've started the process of reviewing existing policy and developing new ones to outline how we do business as a community." Without policies in place, "we've always had to make resolutions, and this will save a lot of that. Council and the administration have a lot of work to do in the next four years."

Bylaws are also being overhauled, with the first of these on the 2018 agenda being the Animal Control Bylaw, which the mayor notes, "Was the first bylaw the first council made back in 1938. It's been revisited time after time since then."

One bylaw that has already been changed has allowed surveillance suites in business property, which not only increases security but also "helps financially in difficult economic times," the mayor said.

One of the major tasks facing the town this year is to develop a strategic planning process for the community, with work to begin this month on a revised vision of "where we're going, from recreation to land development and much more," the mayor said, adding that the process will involve community engagement and must be in place by July 1 of this year.

The past year saw replacements of furnaces and other upgrades in the town office and the town-owned trailer at the airport, and this year will see an even bigger upgrade project get off the ground, as the first phase of changing all the town's water meters to digital gets underway.

The change will mean that one meter reader can drive down the streets to get the digital readings in less than one day per month, rather than two meter readers spending two and a half days each month going into

yards to read the meters, freeing up the worker hours to do other tasks, the mayor said.

The October election saw multiple changes not only in Elk Point, but also in the County of St. Paul and Town of St. Paul councils, and Young feels that it is increasingly important to foster relationships with both, especially since the new MGA is putting increased emphasis on cooperation between municipalities.

The town has definitely had that cooperation with the county in place this past year, as Elk Point was given the opportunity to purchase the county's excavator, which the mayor said "has already saved us a ton of money," and the two municipalities became full partners in the transfer station, both as regards operation, which increased to three days per week as of last spring, and in paying operating costs, a factor that he says is "huge." The town has also struck a deal to obtain gravel, oil mix and sand from the county at cost, for even more savings.

More cooperation is slated for the future, as the municipalities work together on a recreation assessment and street light assessment, both funded by Alberta Community Partnership grants.

The recreation study will "take a long, hard look at all the recreation facilities and how they can be sustainable. They're not just used by the people in the municipalities where they exist, so it's a shared responsibility," the mayor said.

Another new partnership could be in the town's future, as the possibility of sharing the cost for a bylaw officer and a peace officer with another municipality is explored, as part of hoped-for changes in community safety. The resurrection of the Citizens on Patrol program is also on the town's radar, that having been a very effective deterrent to property crime when it was active a few years ago.

Doctor recruitment is an ongoing issue, and Mayor Young said the town is "sincerely pursuing" a third doctor to assist the current physicians with their ever-increasing patient load.

The town is also planning to help the Elk Point Volunteer Fire Department to enhance their roster by recruiting new members. Increased activity in the oil patch is making it difficult for some of the firefighters to be available when needed, a trend that has occurred numerous times over the years, but proves to be a problem for the department when their numbers are low to start with.

Another aspect of safety is the availability of an airport for medical airlifts, as well as for private and company aircraft, and the town is "still pursuing the funding for replacement of the 24/7 airport lights, too. There's some matching dollars coming in, and we've applied for another STIP grant."

Senior housing is yet another ongoing issue, and "there's been lots of talk about the different types. We're in discussions, and trying to make some moves" toward a solution.

"We have good things on the go," Mayor Young concluded. "We're still moving forward, we need to grow and find new opportunities, and we're all in this together."

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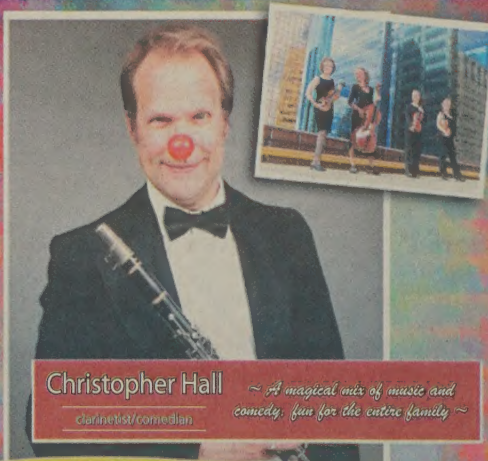


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MP Shannon Stubbs reflects on eventful year

CLARE GAUVREAU
Review Staff

When Lakeland MP Shannon Stubbs paused to reflect on the past year, being named as a recipient of the 2017 Macleans' Parliamentarian of the Year Award for best representing constituents is a personal highlight for her.

"That probably stands out as the most positive things in terms of being recognized by all parties for the work I have done, and the work I continue to do on behalf of the people in the communities that are represented in Lakeland," Stubbs said in a year-end interview with the Journal Dec. 22.

As an Conservative MP, sitting on the Opposition's side of the House of Commons, it has been a challenging, rewarding, frustrating, bittersweet and, at times, eyebrow-raising year for Stubbs.

She described the findings of Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson, released earlier last month, that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau broke conflict of interest rules when he vacationed on an island owned by Aga Khan in December 2016, as deeply troubling.

"For the entire time that he has been Liberal leader, he's had an awful lot to say about how everybody conducts themselves. And, now, to be the first prime minister in Canadian history to be convicted by the ethics commissioner on four different counts of violating federal law, it's shocking," Stubbs said.

"What is deeply troubling is a clear pattern among the most powerful lawmakers in all of Canada where they can't figure out right from wrong in the first place," Stubbs said, citing the federal ethics commissioner's investigation as to whether Finance Minister Bill Morneau was in conflict of interest when he tabled

the pension reform bill last year, as also being worrisome.

A bittersweet highlight for Stubbs was seeing the Liberals push the pause button last summer on proposed tax changes for small businesses, including some specific proposals that impact farmers' ability to pass multi-generational farms onto their children.

"It was very inspiring, energizing and amazing to see the grassroots uprising against those changes. It happened organically from small business owners and chambers of commerce right across the country, banding together and standing up, and talking about the ways it would harm their families and their businesses. It felt like a victory for all of us when they did walk back the changes."

However, a move by the government late in the year, to introduce amendments to its overall tax reform, including tightening rules which previously allowed business owners to lower their tax burden by distributing earnings among family members not significantly involved in the business, effectively allowed no time for debate, Stubbs said.

"So now there was no debate on those changes and they will come into effect Jan. 1. So, small business owners and farmers are spending their Christmas holidays scrambling with the accountants and their lawyers to figure out what those changes mean to them."

At home in the local riding, Stubbs said crime was and is the number one "pressing priority" based on what she's hearing from constituents.

"I know personally, and I've heard from people right across the constituency about the thefts, robberies and vandalism that is escalating," she said. "I've been hearing from residents and also from business owners who are very concerned that they are repeat-

edly broken into, and then there seems to be just a slap on the wrist and the same perpetrators are right back out offending again."

Stubbs said she, together with rural colleagues in the Conservative caucus, have struck a rural crime task force and will be meeting with their constituents in the province to gather information with the hope being to bring forward private members legislation. She said she will be asking for a study on RCMP and law enforcement resources in rural communities across Canada, and requesting an examination of current crimes rates.

"Hopefully, we get support from the other parties to put forward a study to get the facts that can lead to policy and fiscal solutions."

As for the legalization of marijuana, Stubbs said she is not sure why there's such a rush, especially since much of the preparation work around land use, enforcement, bylaws, etc. has been downloaded to the provinces and municipalities to deal with.

"Mainly, what I hear from my constituents, is they don't understand why this is a pressing priority and why it is something that should be rushed through to be effective for July 1."

When asked about the \$5.6 million hockey rink built on Parliament Hill late last year, Stubbs described it as a "mind-boggling" project.

"It is steps away from literally the largest ice rink in the world - the canal- and two blocks away from a municipal rink. On top of that there's all these rule that Canadians can hardly use it the way they would like to use it. They're not allowed to play hockey and they are not allowed to figure skate. That's crazy."

Looking back at 2017 headline news

(Continued from Jan. 2)

MAY

"The Wizard of Oz" was another enormous hit for the Elk Point Theatre Project, with two capacity crowds following the adventures of Dorothy, the tin man, the cowardly lion and the scarecrow as they headed down the Yellow Brick Road to see the wizard. Goalie Paul Boulianne was voted MVP and Fan's Choice at the Elks Hockey Club awards, wit Jason Kalynchuk named Most Dedicated, Chevy Botting the Top Scorer, Jordyn Wozniak the Best Defenseman, Scott Ward the Coaches' Award winner, Dyson Karbaszewski the Most Improved and Nick Trufal the Rookie of the Year.

Former and present members of Elk Point Metelytsia Ukrainian Dance Club gathered on stage at the end of the club's 35th Annual Spring Concert to mark the impressive milestone, with former members trying out a few dance steps for old time's sake. Elk Point and District Lions enjoyed "the nicest weather ever" for their annual Walk for Sight, with 19 walkers and riders raising \$855 for vision-related charities and George Hahn the top fundraiser of the year.

It was anything but a pleasant day just one week later, but 200-plus rain-soaked riders and teamsters ignored the weather and hit the trail from Lindbergh to Elk Point in the Sixth Annual

2nd Chance Trail Ride, which ended with a supper, program and live and silent auctions at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre. Elk Point Community Choir celebrated Canada 150 at their Spring Concert with a program that included everything from Rob Holliday and Gabe Bayduza's "Voyageur Song" from the Fort George and Buckingham House Bicentennial to Ian Tyson's "Four Strong Winds", Stompin' Tom Connors' "Hockey Song" and Rita MacNeil's "Working Man".

Elk Point Elementary School celebrated 50 years, with a large contingent of former teachers, support staff and students returning to the halls of learning to reminisce and page through photo albums showing the school's history. The Chamber of Commerce brainstorming session, facilitated by Bob Bezpalko of Northeast Alberta Information Hub, emphasized the need to prove the chamber's value to its members and potential members.

Kailey and Lexi Wirsta swept the Elk Point 4-H Beef Club Achievement Day, Kailey showing the Grand Champion Steer and Lexi showing both the Supreme and Reserve Champion females and the Reserve Champion steer, while Dallas Bristow took home the trophy for his steer's Rate of Gain. Two active community members, Jody Lecopoy and Jeff

Classen, lost their lives, as did St. Paul resident Omer Gamache and Cold Lake's Colin Perpelitza in a head-on collision on Highway 29, with a fifth victim, Todd Wilkins, transported to Edmonton with serious injuries.

JUNE

Elk Point Elementary School Tigers pulled off an upset, edging out seven-time champions St. Paul Elementary at Onchaminahos School's annual Windrunners race. Ninety years of automotive beauty, from a

1926 Model T Ford to a brand new sports car, were on display at the 30th annual Elk Point Auto Club Show and Shine.

The luck of a random draw was a life-changing win for Tonya Beeching, Kyle Tingey and their son, when Beeching won \$100,000 in Federated Co-operatives' 2017 Fuel Up to Win contest, after no one collected the seven game stickers in the Collect to Win portion of the program.

(Continued on Page 5)



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1. To receive the financial statements of the Association for the financial year end;
2. To elect Directors of the Association;
3. To appoint an Auditor of the Association;
4. To amend or accept amendments of By-laws
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EDITORIAL

RIP, volunteers

Elk Point lost two dedicated volunteers in the first week of 2018, both leaving a legacy of tireless service for the organizations they served for many years.

Geoff Hylsop passed away suddenly on New Year's day, and leaves his fellow volunteers in the Elk Point and District Lions Club with big shoes to fill. Geoff was not only the treasurer, he was also the man who cooked the burgers for the Walk for Sight, tended bar at the Walleye Derby and worked casinos and other fundraisers. Until he resigned the double duties this past September, he was also not only the Chamber of Commerce president, he continued filling in as treasurer when a replacement for his five years in that role could not be found. He will be much missed.

Myrna Fox passed away on Friday after a long illness, and held firmly on to her leadership of the Elk Point Healthcare Auxiliary until the very end, after four decades of operating the canteen, presenting scholarships and awards to deserving young people. A retired educator, she was a strong advocate of further education and also presented scholarships in memory of her late brother and her mother, as well as serving on the Fair Board, as her mother did before her.

May they both rest in peace, knowing they always gave their best for their community.

YOUR VIEWS

Public meeting to discuss fishing regulation changes

RAY MAKOWECKI

Fisheries Biologist, Volunteer

A public meeting to discuss changes to the 2018 Alberta Sportfishing Regulations will be held on Jan. 16 at Lac Bellevue Hall south of St. Paul, at 7 p.m.

For the past 20 years, many public lakes in Alberta have had zero catch limits on walleye. Anglers have expressed concern and are asking why not allow some fish to be caught and utilized by Albertans. Anglers want to have healthy fish numbers without wasting this valuable resource.

During the past three months the Government of Alberta has been asking the people to complete three website surveys dealing with Fisheries Management Plans and Alberta 2018 Sport Fishing Regulations to address the future of walleye and pike in Alberta lakes.

Albertans have expressed concern about the website surveys. The specific concerns include the following: the people did not know that such surveys were occurring, the people had difficulty accessing the website survey, the questions did not provide low risk harvesting regulatory options other than allocating tags in a draw or suggesting only catch and release angling opportunities.

The third survey suggested on some lakes possible increased walleye harvest opportunities through the allocation of tags on a draw. Reduced harvest opportunities for Northern pike on several lakes were offered through the allocation of tags on a draw or catch and release only. Some closures to pike harvest were also being identified.

After input from the previous meetings at Lac Bellevue and Lac La Biche some changes were made to the 2017 fishing regulations. These earlier public meetings organized by volunteer public citizens had also suggested low risk walleye harvesting regulations that would reduce the high walleye populations and allow ecological balance with northern pike, yellow perch and lake whitefish.

(Continued on Page 5)



WAY BACK WHEN...

New baby, new millionaire, new high in building permits

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 9 IN...

1988

A five-pound baby girl born to Linda Berland and Jack Cree was Elk Point Hospital's first arrival of the New Year. In a world of bleak economic forecasts and plunging stock markets, the Town of Elk Point approved a whopping \$1.1 million in building permits, including seven new single family homes, four mobile homes, the new auto centre complex and seven other commercial permits.

1993

The Elk Point area had a new millionaire, when Wayne McKenzie won \$2.3 million in the 649 lottery. Ruby and John Babcock welcomed Elk Point's first baby of the year earlier than they had planned, with the premature infant rushed off to Edmonton by a neonatal team.

1998

The Town of Elk Point issued a total of \$4,920,500 in building permits for 54 projects in 1997, an increase of 360 per cent in projects and 400 per cent in value from the previous year. With the 1997 First Night festivities wrapped up, the planning committee was already looking ahead two years to their biggest celebration ever, the Millennium on Dec. 31, 1999, with Sid Holthe urging that the committee invite suggestions and having one of his own, for a "full-blown fiddle competition."

2003

The Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House met with facilitator Heather Nickel of Alberta Community Development Volunteer Services to learn new ways of recruiting and retaining new members, in an effort to revive a dwindling membership. Heinsburg Community School hosted a quad riding safety work-

shop, where Wayne Tymchuk explained the basics to students from Grade 1 up, using a jello brain to show students how fragile it was,

2008

Town council got an early start on 2008 proceedings, moving their first meeting up eight days to Sunday, Jan. 5 and starting off with a three-hour review of town bylaws, then giving the final two readings to a bylaw establishing an Economic Development Committee, replacing the former EDC whose members had contributed financially to a start up fund, with the remaining funds to be returned to the members of that dissolved group. Coral Houle-Dion won Elk Point Elementary School's Accelerated Reader Christmas Challenge.

2013

The Gadwa family, which included children Tyson, Tallyn and Trayden, and husband and wife Gordon and Dayna, were one of the three recipients of the proceeds from this year's New Year's Eve Benefit Dance in St. Paul, after Gordon Gadwa was involved in a collision earlier in the year that left him with serious injuries.



ELK POINT PEEWEE AVALANCHE WON the 'B' side of their six-team home tournament with a 9-7 final victory over Marwayne Sled Dogs.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Vicki Brooker
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Looking back

(Continued from Page 3)

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce analyzed the results of the May 17 brainstorming session and agreed that a chamber website might be a good starting point for revitalizing the chamber.

Elk Point Minor Ball asked town council for permission and support of the construction of a new diamond for Mosquito and Peeewe-aged players at the Elk Point Recreation Park, with minor ball players now numbering almost 150. Elk Point residents were asked to clean up for Canada Day, with the bylaw enforcement officer touring the town and fining 46 areas in need of a clean-up, due to weeds, un-mown lawns and unattractive clutter.

Graduands Sunrise Moocheweines, Cyrus Jackson, Isaiah Morin and Seneca Waskahat were deemed "exemplary students" by Heinsburg Community School principal Carmen McLeod at the Class of 2017 celebration.

JULY

"Work Hard, Dream Big" was the theme for F. G. Miller High School's Class of 2017, who chose Christopher Boratynec as their valedictorian, with Amy Harms and Dawson Delorme handing over the Crusader sword to Dana Gibson and Jaden Plaska of the Class of 2018. Elk Point Elementary students celebrated a successful year, with Colby Havener accepting the St.

Paul Education Regional Division No. 1's Grade 6 Academic Award.

The Canada Day parade was the longest in years, with thick fog disappearing while 800 hungry breakfasters enjoyed the pancake breakfast as they fuelled up for a day that also included afternoon entertainment, and a reunion of F. G. Miller High School alumni. The 2017 Voyageurs Rendezvous Canoe Brigade visited Elk Point and Heinsburg, with Mona McGinnis, who received an autographed paddle when the 1967 version of the Brigade came to Elk Point, proudly showing her treasured souvenir to the four participants of the current group who were also part of that brigade.

A massive storm wreaked havoc across a wide area, Elk Point missing out on the large hail that pounded crops in surrounding areas, but slammed by winds that brought down numerous trees that blocked streets and landed on homes and yards as more than two inches of rain fell in a very short time. Town council welcomed new RCMP Sgt. Terry Hygen, who said the community "already feels like home."

Storm debris was largely cleaned up by the following week, when the gardens of Donna and Doug Gollidge, Donna and Doug Bassett and Wanda and Murray Cochrane were part of the annual St. Paul Community Garden Society tour.

AUGUST

Elk Point AA Bantam

Sox won gold by a single point over Chestermere Crushers at the Tier 5 Provincial Provincials in Elk Point, while Elk Point Mosquito Sox won silver, the first provincial medals ever won by an Elk Point Mosquito team.

The Canada Day Committee was disappointed with the turnout at some of their events, and considered going back to basics next year, possibly bringing back some of the popular events from the early years of the celebration.

Canada's new astronaut Joshua Kutryk has strong ties to the Elk Point area, having lived here as a child when his father Barry was the RCMP sergeant, and enjoyed meeting old school-mates and his Grade 3 teacher, Lee Wruth, at a meet-and-greet session. Weather played a role in decreased entries at Elk Point Agricultural Society's Horticulture, Craft and Quilt Show, where Marianne Pierson won the both the Grand Aggregate and the Violet E. McFadyen award.

Tyson and Darcy Stafford were declared the 34th Annual Elk Point Oilmen's Golf Tournament champions.

Elk Point Emergency Services Golf Tournament was small in attendance but yielded a cheque for \$60,000 that was presented to STARS Air Ambulance at the end of the day, and Brant Evans, Shauna Kinjerski, Don Schultz and Ron Lacombe winning a tiebreaker coin toss to win the event.

Watch next week for the September to December highlights.

identify your preferences. This is your opportunity to speak out. This meeting is being organized and sponsored by concerned public volunteers, clubs and associations.

The Alberta Government will also be holding other public meetings scheduled for Calgary (Jan. 10), Edmonton (Jan. 11), Slave Lake (Jan. 17), Grande Prairie (Jan. 18), and Lac La Biche (Jan. 22). Check the Alberta Government website for locations and times.

Simplified changes will enhance the overall fish populations and allow the people to use the fish as food and at the same time provide economic benefits to the local communities for continued recreational fishing and tourism. The concerns and suggested solutions of the anglers, stakeholders, municipalities, Fish and Game Associations, Agricultural Societies, Chambers of Commerce, business community and the general public with regard to better utilization of fish resources in the Central and NE Regions of Alberta is acknowledged.



NOTICE

Public Hearing – January 22, 2018

2018 Elk Point Utility Rates Going Up

The water/sewer rates for the Town of Elk Point are being proposed to increase due to the Regional Water Commission rate increase and the Capital costs for the water reservoir as well replacing 700 meters with new electronic meters, 274 have been completed already.

NOTE: Rates to be effective January 1, 2018 Consumption

Proposed Elk Point utility rates increase are for 3 reasons:

1. To cover the costs of the Elk Point/St. Paul Regional Water Commission water increase from \$2.02 m³ to \$2.10 m³ effective January 1, 2018 Consumption;
2. To cover the cost of new electronic water meters (700) being replaced; and
3. To cover the costs of the upgrades to the Town's water system (reservoir).

The 2015, 2016, 2017 rates and the new proposed 2018 rate are outlined below:

	2015/2016 Rate		2017 Rate		2018 Rate
	Residential	Non Residential	Residential	Non Residential	Residential & Non Residential
Basic Water (Includes 14m³)	44.00	44.00	50.00	50.00	60.00
Basic Sewer	11.00	11.00	15.00	15.00	17.00
Garbage	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Garbage Bins (Res)	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Water Meter Replacement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Basic Total	\$73.00	\$70.00	\$83.00	\$80.00	\$99.00
	Water Rate \$3.00/m³ over 14m³		Water Rate \$4.00/m³ over 14m³		Water Rate \$4.00/m³ over 14m³

In accordance with Section 230 (1) of the Municipal Government Act, Town of Elk Point will be holding a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM Monday, January 22, 2018 to consider a water rate increase of \$16.00 per month Residential and \$19.00 month Non-Residential effective January 1, 2018 Consumption. First billing period will be February 2018.

If you have any comments or concerns please submit in writing on or before January 17, 2018 to Town Office at 4914 – 50 Avenue (Po Box 448) or you are welcome to attend the Public Hearing on January 22, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Thank you.

Sportfishing

(Continued from Page 4)

Some public groups have suggested the following simplified regulatory options for walleye and pike.

1. "Harvesting one walleye daily limit of slot-sized between 40 cm and 50 cm total length with a specified concurrent season (all lakes in the same week or days). A shorter concurrent season for the smaller-sized lakes (less than 1000 hectares surface area) could also be a consideration. Catch and release fishing would remain unchanged"

2. Revise the Alberta Sportfishing Regulations for pike catch limits in the walleye-pike lakes to one pike daily slot size of 55 cm to 65 cm.

3. Revise the Alberta Sportfishing Regulations for pike catch limits in all pike-perch lakes to a 2 pike daily limit with slot size of 55 cm to 65 cm or a two pike daily limit any size for these lakes.

The Lac Bellevue meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to hear the Government options and to

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DEADLINE IS JANUARY 17, 2018

Midget Avalanche tames Vermilion Tigers 7-4 to start off the New Year

How did this happen? Another year is here! What will 2018 bring? Let's hope we can win a league championship for one or more of our teams, and maybe even a provincial championship. That would be nice, right?

The Midget Avalanche team seems to be on the right track to do just that, they tamed the Vermilion Tigers on Friday night winning 7 to 4 right in the Vermilion Stadium. Two goals each for the 'Big O' Brody Odgaard, Nick 'Sparky' Anderson and Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage. The Big O scoring the first two, then 'Sparky' with two in the second and 'Hot Wheels' with his wicked slap shot scored the last two at the end of the game. In the middle of it all, team captain 'Awesome Alex' Hunter added a single, plus he assisted on a couple of the others. Rugged defenseman 'Warrior Warren' Ference with two helpers too, Chase 'Rink Rat' Dorey with one assist. Superb goal-tending by Avalanche goalie Spencer 'Fortress' Hardcastle, he totally dominated in the cage. No chance at all for the Tigers to scale this wall.

Bantam bench shrinking

How do you think they do this? I don't think that things could get much worse for the Bantam Avalanche team. Only ten skaters to start the season, there're already missing the injured Jace 'the Stafford Streak' with a broken wrist. Then the team suffered another blow. Another injury this past week when Odin 'the Wall' Smith broke his hand just before their game on Saturday. With only eight skaters and a goalie, this talent-laden team still somehow performs really well, unbelievable, in fact. D-man Evan 'Batman' Ockerman



doug
BASSETT

Review Sports

scoring the first goal for the Avalanche, assisted by 'Lightning Liam' Ludlage and Jaden 'Jet Stream' Van Maarion.

The Bonnyville Pontiacs would answer with two in the first and add another early in the second period to take a 3 to 1 lead. At this point in the game, things were looking very grim. The winning bubble was about to burst. But then, with only 11 seconds left in the second period, 'Lightning Liam' would score one on the power play making it 3 to 2 at the end of 40 minutes. Only one spare forward and one spare defenseman to start the third, but somehow they managed to score another on the power play by 'Jet Stream' assisted by Charlie 'Chuckles' Rogal and 'King Cole' Bendixen to tie the game it at three-all. A few minutes later, once again on the power play, 'Jet Stream' would fire a wicked blast from just inside the blue line breaking the sound barrier with this one, the goalie had very little time to react, the puck was in the net. Matthew 'Quickstraw' Quinney and 'Chuckles' with the assists, the Avalanche taking the lead. Now all they had to do was to hold on. Not a easy task, but not to be outdone by his old brother, goalie 'Sexy Slader' Hardcastle put on a outstanding performance as well, facing 23 shots. All you really need is a few good men!!

Peewee 1 tested

Over in St. Paul on the weekend, our Peewee Tier One team played in the St. Paul tier one tournament. This was a great test for us, playing some different teams that we wouldn't normally see. The first game they lost a close one to a team from Edmonton, the SWZ Oil Kings, 7 to 4. Two goals and

two assists for 'Mick Jager' Fontaine, Cash 'Paycheque' Capjack on the doorstep getting right up in the goal-tender's grill, scoring two plus adding an assist. 'King Kong Konnor' Poitras with an assist. Solid defenseman 'Nic the Saint' Penner with the player of the game award. Their second game was a huge win over the Sundre Huskies, winning this one 13 to 5. Four goals and two assist each for 'Paycheque' and 'King Kong Konnor', three goals and four assists for 'Mick Jager' The 'Saint' and Rylee 'the Rocket' Warawa with one goal each, the defensemen doing a great job of moving the puck up. Josef 'Big Red' Theriault with three assists, Ceajay Quinney with two assists, Sam 'Spiderman' Rogal with one. Landon the 'Magnificent' Malachowski with a assist and awarded the player of the game. On Sunday the Avalanche lost in the semi finals against a very strong team from St. Albert. 'Spiderman' was named the player of the game.

Atom action

On the road this weekend, the Atom Avalanche team traveled to the Border City on Saturday losing 4 to 2. Kaysen 'Dynamite' DeMossiac with both goals for the Avalanche. "I hear a train a-coming, it's rolling round the bend." Timmy 'the Freight Train' Cardinal scoring the only goal for the Atom Avalanche in Bonnyville on Sunday, tipping in the rebound by Braylee 'Little Willy' Lesyk. His brother, goalie 'Good Time Charlie' Lesyk was totally awesome all weekend in net. On Sunday he was standing on his head, facing 35 shots and keeping this game within reach.

Novice Avs trounce T-Birds

The Novice Avalanche starting the new year off on the right foot, winning 8 to 4 over in Frog Lake against the T-Birds on Saturday. A natural hat trick

for 'Without a Trace' Morgan who then suited up and played goal for the third period after their starter, Brendan 'Buzz Saw' Kadutski took one off the beak and felt a little dizzy. Two goals each for Kale 'the Hawk' Ockerman and 'Wyatt Earp' Fontaine. Miles 'the Millionaire' Koran getting on the game sheet with an assist.

Sharing the ice

Sometime on Saturday the Vermilion ice plant went down. Desperate for ice, they called and since we had some ice available, we hosted three of their home games here in Elk Point. For the one game on Sunday, our good friends the Kopecks came from Bonnyville to watch their grandson play. The Kopecks were very involved in the arena when they lived here Jerry coached and played for the Bullets. Terry was the booth coordinator. Their grandson is a center-man, Carter 'Hardcore' Hughes, he scored late in the third period, Bonnyville losing this one 4 to 2. Too little too late, but the youngster has some great wheels just like his dad Jeff used too when he played for the Thunder. And he is a lot of fun to watch for his grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends!

All Star bound

And after playing in Prince Albert in a huge female hockey tournament on this past weekend for the Vermilion Tigers Female Bantam team, defense woman Jadey 'the Lady' Capjack was named to play in the All Star game being held in Irma this coming Saturday. I know she maybe small, but she's very rugged and competitive and I'm sure that's why she was chosen.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "The only difference between a good shot and a bad shot is if it goes in or not." - Charles Barkley

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Announcements



**Macey Randy
 Rose Waskahat**

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 Weight: 8lbs, 5oz
 Height: 21"

Daughter of Matthew
 Waskahat & Nicole Scott

OBITUARY

**FOX,
 Myrna**



On January 5, 2018,
 Mrs. Myrna Fox of Elk Point
 passed away at the age of 77
 years. She is survived by her
 loving husband of nearly 50
 years, Bill; 2 sisters-in-law,
 Chris & Marjorie McFadyen;
 all of Bill's family; & numerous
 nieces, nephews & other
 relatives. She was predeceased
 by her parents, Gordon &
 Violet McFadyen; 2 brothers,
 Malcolm & Barrie. Funeral
 Service will be held on Friday,
 January 12 at 11:00 a.m. at
 Allied Arts Centre, Elk Point.
 Reverend Anne McGrath will
 be officiating with interment in
 Rife & District Cemetery, Rife.
 If desired, donations may be
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